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essay was written, the Wyclif Society has given to the world a handsome shelfful of the great teacher's hitherto unprinted writings.

GEORGE M. WRONG.

*Essentials in Ancient History from the Earliest Times to the Death of Charlemagne.* By ARTHUR MAYER WOLFSON, Ph.D., in consultation with Albert Bushnell Hart. (New York: American Book Company. 1902. Pp. iii, 528.)

THIS book is intended to furnish the basis for a one year's course in ancient history in the high-school. The author's experience has enabled him to select material and construct a narrative suited to the capacity of high-school pupils. From a pedagogical standpoint the work is successful; but even a brief review of its contents reveals errors in general treatment and in detail which make it far from possible to accord it like praise from a historical and literary standpoint. Comparatively little space can be given to the oriental nations. The attempt, therefore, to put political history and civilization on an equal footing has resulted in satisfactory treatment of neither. All recent investigations in these fields seem to have escaped the writer's attention.

In the history of Greece it is gratifying to find but twenty pages out of one hundred and seventy-five allotted to the Peloponnesian War. This is characteristic of this section of the book, and consequently civilization receives more just treatment than has been usual in text-books. The chapters on the Hellenistic period are reserved till the time when Rome comes in contact with the east — an arrangement which emphasizes the unity of ancient history very forcibly. It is, however, unfortunate to separate the civilization of the fourth century so far from the other events of that time. Hesiod should be mentioned and Lycurgus receives too much consideration (p. 75). Xenophon (p. 309) is not worthy of as much space as Herodotus and Thucydides combined (p. 155). The account of the reforms of Cleisthenes is confused (p. 98). Geographically, at least, Macedonia does not include Chalcidice (p. 194).

The good proportions observed in the pages devoted to Greek history are wholly absent from those devoted to the history of Rome and the west. In general less, and far too little, attention is given to topics relating to civilization. Too much space is given to early Rome. Until our ignorance on that period is more fully defined, old views cannot be wholly neglected in text-books; but it is going too far in the other direction to devote forty pages of "Essentials" to a detailed chronological narrative of events down to the war with Pyrrhus. A short summary of this period, and a judicious compression of the material on the later Republic would permit greater justice to be done to the far more important period of the Empire. One hundred and fifty pages are given to the Republic, and but one hundred to the first eight centuries of the Christian era. If this ratio were reversed, the proportions would be more nearly correct. The extension of Roman dominion over the ancient world is well brought out. For high-schools it is, perhaps, right to give the constitu-

tion but minor consideration. Were so many really killed in the Second Punic War that "few able-bodied men were left to cultivate the soil" (p. 349)? The significance of the invasions of the Cimbri and Teutones is not shown. Some pupils may be perplexed over the racial characteristics of the Germans who "had come to be the black terror of Rome" (p. 361).

The treatment of the Empire is everywhere inadequate. Christianity receives an over-prominence; and the heathen religion which it supplanted is neglected. Other elements of civilization do not receive due emphasis; this is especially true of the spread of culture in the provinces of the west. The story of the centuries after the end of the Empire is confused. Claudius was made emperor by the *prætorians* (p. 411). Caracalla's edict of 212 should be mentioned, and the date of the death of Theodosius should certainly be given. The Eastern Empire affected the west constantly during the middle ages, not "rarely," as the author seems to think (p. 479). The Saxons lived north and not east of Charlemagne's territory (p. 497).

The general bibliography and the reference lists at the ends of chapters should be made shorter and more discriminating. The reference lists fail constantly to give precedence to the best authorities, even considering only those cited in the lists themselves. The list of books recommended for a small library contains at least as many titles that should be avoided as titles that might be recommended. The equipment of maps is all that can be asked. The spelling of proper names in the maps and in the text should be brought into accord with some uniform system; Rome and Capreae go oddly together (p. 216). The volume is profusely supplied with illustrations, which are, with rare exceptions, old and indistinct. It is preposterous to give full-page reproductions of restorations and modern paintings, and only very small and inferior cuts from such sources as the *Hermes of Praxiteles*.

A. C. TILTON.

*The Principles of English Constitutional History.* By LUCY DALE.  
(London, New York, and Bombay: Longmans, Green, and Co. 1902. Pp. xi, 509.)

In the preface the writer says that, were it now the custom to attach long explanatory titles to modest works, this book would probably be called "The Development of English Institutions: an attempt briefly to set forth the main results of modern historical research in a form acceptable to the general reader." The work is not without conspicuous merits; but neither this title nor the actual one is entirely justified by its character. The method of treatment adopted has perforce made the result essentially a general political history of England. Green's *Short History* or Gardiner's *Student's History* might with almost equal justice be called a constitutional treatise. The whole subject is carried along chronologically reign by reign. There is little attempt to trace the evolution of institutions or great constitutional organisms over long periods. There is, for example, no sustained treatment of Parliament, either in